The World Health Organization recognizes that addictive disorders are a major worldwide health crisis, affecting perhaps hundreds of millions of people and leading to staggering morbidity and mortality statistics—both directly and indirectly as a result of the connection to HIV and other life-threatening infectious diseases.

In many countries, addictive disorders are emerging as the major health problem in their respective areas. Addictive disorders are however able to be diagnosed and treated, provided that effective treatment is accessible and integrated. In this presentation, a conceptual framework is provided for defining addiction, and constructing a strategy for effective integrated treatment options. Addiction is uniquely regarded as a biopsychospiritual disorder, and thus effective diagnostic and treatment methods must include a broader range of scientific concepts and knowledge. International perspectives regarding the research, diagnosis, treatment and management of addictive disorders will be discussed. Indeed, a wide-ranging global outlook for the response to addictive disorders will be an advantage for all scientists in the field.

Biography
Gregory Bunt, M.D., is Medical Director and Senior Vice President of Health Services at Daytop Village, a not-for-profit organization that provides family-oriented substance abuse treatment for adults and teens. He is also President-elect of the International Society of Addiction Medicine.

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